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IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF AN OPEN ACCESS TO PUBLICATIONS POLICY AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

In 2016, UCC approved a Green Open Access Policy requesting staff to archive peer reviewed journal articles and conference papers in CORA, the institutional repository.

The benefits of Going Green are clear. There are no author charges for archiving. Archiving in the repository creates a permanent record of the university research performance and promotes visibility of research.

Publications deposited in CORA are discoverable and accessible globally.

The Challenge

A policy is not enough. A 2015 survey indicated broad support for Green Open Access across the UCC community. However, this was not reflected in volume of publications in CORA. Reasons given included time constraints, confusion over copyright and confusion over the version of the article required for archiving.

With Green Open Access, the majority of publishers permit authors to archive the Accepted Version (AV), not the Published Version (PV). Authors don't tend to keep the AV, and once the article is published, the AV can be difficult to get.

The Accepted Version is what we need.

The Solution

Harvesting project: early intervention

Provision of additional staff resources to the repository enabled the launch of a harvesting project.

We used automated email alerts from Scopus and Google Scholar to identify recently published UCC affiliated publications.

Accepted Versions are often available online from publishers' websites during a short window before final typesetting and scheduling of the published version. We use Google Scholar Alerts to find and harvest these AVs.

We also use these alerts to harvest Published Versions where permitted under copyright.

Harvesting Project: Mediated Deposit

We request permission from the author to archive the accepted version where harvested.

A courtesy notification is sent where archiving is permitted for the published version.

We request the accepted version from the author if we haven't been able to source it independently.

Publications are uploaded to the repository via the IRIS (research information system) on the author's behalf.

Progress so far

We have had most success where we have harvested files. Since September 2016 we have archived approximately 500 peer-reviewed publications.

While the process is resource intensive, we feel it has been worth the effort as we have been able to build positive relationships between UCC Library and researchers.

There is a growing awareness of the benefits of Green Open Access among UCC researchers.

Future hope

Archiving in the repository will become embedded in researchers' minds as an automatic part of the publication lifecycle.

“ Props to @UCC Librarian @BreedaHerlihy for zero effort (to me!) repository submission by *opt out* – Dr. Darren Dahly, Principal Statistician, HRB; Snr Lecturer UCC

“ Fantastic – Love it – all done with no effort on our end – Prof. Anita Maguire, VP for Research & Innovation

